

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/712,987	SCHMIDT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lars A. Olson	3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to after-final amendment received from the applicant on August 23, 2006.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7 and 9-36.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. On line 6 of Claim 26, a period “.” has been added after the word “modes” in order to place the claim in complete form.
3. On line 6 of Claim 33, the period “.” after the word “mission” has been deleted.
4. On line 6 of Claim 34, the period “.” after the word “mission” has been deleted.
5. On line 6 of Claim 36, the period “.” after the word “mission” has been deleted.
  
6. An after-final amendment was received from the applicant on August 23, 2006.
7. Claims 5, 6 and 8 have been canceled.

**Reasons for Allowance**

8. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9-36 are allowed.
9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The vessel as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a vessel that is comprised of a frame that is operable to retrieve a mission module, said module enabling said vessel to perform a function for a specific mission and distributing resources from said module to said vessel, said module also being operable for

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installation in said vessel, where said vessel has a multi-mode hull that is capable of maneuvering in at least three operational modes. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a method that is comprised of the steps of disengaging a mission module from a vessel with a multi-mode hull that is capable of maneuvering in at least three operational modes, removing said module from a bay in said vessel, and floating said module away from said vessel. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said vessel with a multi-mode hull that is capable of maneuvering in a logistics mode, or a catamaran mode, or a low freeboard mode as an operational mode, or moving a mission module into said vessel by means of a ramp, or coupling a system interface of said mission module to a system interface of said vessel. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a mission module that is operable to enable a vessel to perform an anti-mine mission, an anti-submarine mission, or a surveillance and reconnaissance mission.

10. The prior art as disclosed by Marbury, Jr. (US 3,776,167) shows the use of a vessel that is comprised of a frame that is operable to retrieve a mission module that is floating near said frame and install said mission module in said vessel, where said vessel has a multi-mode hull that is operable to allow said vessel to maneuver in at least two operational modes, one of said modes being a SWATH mode. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a vessel that is comprised of a frame that is operable to retrieve a mission module, said module enabling said vessel to perform a function for a specific mission and distributing resources from said module to said vessel, said module also being operable for installation in said vessel, where said

vessel has a multi-mode hull that is capable of maneuvering in at least three operational modes, or capable of maneuvering in a logistics mode, a catamaran mode, or a low freeboard mode.

***Conclusion***

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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September 14, 2006

LARS A. OLSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



a/14/06